
Wastewater treatment in Arcachon

Introduction :

Wastewater treatment plants are usually situated beside rivers to reject the treated waters inside. They aim at cleaning up the dirty waters not to affect the natural environment .



Principle of operation:

The effluent treatment is generally made of four steps:

- The first treatment (or pre-treatment) consists in the removal of suspended solids in water.
- The second treatment consists in the removal of dissolved materials in water.
- The third treatment consists in disinfection (with nitrogen and phosphorus).
- The last treatment is the reduction, the stabilization and the removal of sludges.

About the Gironde :

The “wharf” of the Salie -a long canal which carries the washed waters of the Gironde- has rejected about seventy billion liters a day of urban and industrial effluents into the Atlantic Ocean, since 1974. But, fortunately, two new and innovating stations were built in the Arcachon bay, putting the sewage system of urban waters in the ecological norm. Moreover, people belonging to the field of water treatment work to improve the quality of effluents.

The maintenance of “wharf” installation took a long time because of some problems, notably, the fatal consequences of discharges on the environment (like the abnormal mortality of fish in the bay, and the algua -dangerous to our organism- which appear in the oysters).

That’s the reason why the modernisation of a part of water treatment systems were determined by agents of the environment (the changes were decided according to ecological impact, and not money!) .

From now on, the water sewage system is controled to foresee technical problems, and, besides, agents of the environment test the quality of discharged waters, for more security.